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Peacebuilding Commission
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Letter dated 25 March 2008 from the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission and the Chairperson of the Guinea-Bissau configuration to the President of the Security Council

We have the honour to refer to the letter dated 11 December 2007, addressed to the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission by which the President of the Security Council requested the advice of the Commission on the situation in Guinea-Bissau (S/2007/744); to the reply from the Chairperson of the Commission dated 28 December 2007 (A/62/686-S/2008/87); and the letter dated 14 March 2008, by which the President of the Security Council invited the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration to brief the Council on 26 March 2008.

The Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission established the Guinea-Bissau configuration, in December 2007 under the leadership of Brazil. Since then, the Chair of the Guinea-Bissau configuration has conducted an exploratory mission to Guinea-Bissau, the Guinea-Bissau configuration has discussed a mapping of resources and gaps for peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau and a high-level delegation of the Government of Guinea-Bissau has made a presentation on the country's priorities for peacebuilding. After being advised by the Guinea-Bissau configuration, the Secretary-General announced the eligibility of Guinea-Bissau to the Peacebuilding Fund.

The Peacebuilding Commission is now engaged in the process of determining the critical peacebuilding priorities, together with the specific added value it can bring to each of them. The challenges in the country include the areas identified by the Security Council, i.e., building governmental capacity, public-sector reform, strengthening of the rule of law, security-sector reform and assisting the electoral process. Challenges also include salary arrears; improving the living conditions of the military; combating drug trafficking and organized crime; promoting human resources development and youth employment; addressing the needs of vulnerable groups; rehabilitating infrastructure, in particular the energy sector; and adopting measures to jump-start the revival of the economy.

The Peacebuilding Commission will also define the specific mix of measures and the sequencing of the actions it will undertake within each of the priority areas to support existing strategies and programmes, identify gaps and generate synergies among programmes. The Commission intends to tackle peacebuilding in Guinea-

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Bissau through a two-pronged approach, interweaving immediate and rapid actions with a medium-term and long-term engagement, bearing in mind the need to rank priorities according to the degree of urgency, importance and value added to peace-consolidation efforts.

The strategic framework for peacebuilding will outline the commitments of the Government of Guinea-Bissau, the Peacebuilding Commission and various other stakeholders. As part of the process of developing the strategic framework, the Commission intends to conduct a field trip to Guinea-Bissau in early April 2008.

We trust that the Peacebuilding Commission will be in a position to provide further information on peacebuilding priorities in Guinea-Bissau in the coming months.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Chairperson
Peacebuilding Commission

(*Signed*) Maria Luiza Ribeiro **Viotti**
Chairperson
Guinea-Bissau configuration